

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Area One traffic

Traffic in Area One is detoured Monday through Feb. 6 due to utility construction. Traffic to the 31st Medical Group will not be affected. All other traffic will be one-way and must follow the traffic pattern towards the high school and library, passing behind the bowling alley and mini-mall. Motorists are encouraged to reduce speed and observe posted signs. For more information, call Giancarlo Biasutto at Ext. 5759.

Cell phone violations

Aviano members are not allowed to use hand-held cell phones while driving or in physical control of a motor vehicle. This applies whether on or off the installation.

The wearing of earphones or headphones on or near roadways is also prohibited. This applies to all motor vehicle operators, bicyclists, roller bladers, pedestrians and joggers. Joggers may wear headphones while on the base track only.

Violators will receive a DD Form 1408 traffic ticket and three traffic points. For more information, call Ext. 4857.



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Gearing up

Aerospace Expeditionary Force 9/10 Airmen process through the deployment line at Hangar One Jan. 17. The deployment line ensures Aviano Airmen have their affairs and paperwork in order before heading out.

OHA survey offers chance for change

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For a limited time, Aviano members will have the power to influence the amount of money they see in their paychecks.

Beginning Thursday, the annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility Survey will be available online to all U.S. service members who live in privately-leased quarters and receive an overseas housing allowance.

"It's important for military members living on the economy to complete the survey as accurately as possible to fully represent the cost of overseas utilities," said Navy Lt.

j.g. Kenneth Biddle, Commander Navy Region Europe Galley program director. "With rising utility costs, it's essential to identify where these increases are so service members are not covering the differences out of pocket."

Although the questionnaire is similar to previous surveys, it will have a few noticeable differences.

"We are using a new survey format and a comments section at the end of the survey," said Lieutenant Biddle. "We strongly encourage everyone to tell us what they liked or didn't like and what we could do better."

See OHA, Page 7

Parking: The parking spots in front of the post office will be blocked off for new sidewalk installation Monday through Feb. 3.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	554.2	400
	+32.6	+31

Information current as of Thursday.



Army brothers

As part of their embedded mission, the Army's B Company Gargoyles lend the Aviano community more than just a hand.

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Hidden gem

Do like the locals and visit the ancient village of Padova to explore the famous frescos and basilicas without the crowds of Venice.

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Around the Air Force: A word from those who lead

Nurture the future; groom Airmen for success

By Chief Master Sgt. James Erwin
*407th Expeditionary Security
Forces Squadron*

What does taking care of your troops mean to you? Does it mean giving in to every want, concern or need?

To me, it means giving the troop everything he or she needs to be successful. After all, they are the Airmen who will replace today's leaders, and we owe it to them to make sure they are prepared. Troops need education, discipline, opportunities and role models.

Our Airmen need mentors to be competent and confident in their duties and the lifestyle of the Air Force. The philosophy I have been brought up with is to get qualified on duties first and then knock out your career development courses. These simple actions make new Airmen a valuable member of the team.

Challenge Airmen with the opportunity of off-duty education. This will not only benefit the Air Force but will make Airmen more productive. With formal education, their thinking becomes clearer and their ability to communicate is enhanced.

Troops also need discipline. When most people hear the word 'discipline' they immediately think of the old sergeant chewing out a troop or Airman Smith standing in front of the commander's desk receiving administrative action. Unfortunately, there are times when these things are necessary. These actions can often be avoided if supervisors are actively engaged with their troops and encourage conduct that warrants rewards instead of punishment.

The side of discipline that goes unnoticed is the reinforcement or reward side. It doesn't take a lot of time to give a deserving Airman a pat on the back or say thanks for a job well done in front of their peers and supervisors. Little things such as these are money in the bank for the leader who recognizes the individual's efforts.

As Airmen grow they need opportunities to enhance their skills. They need to be allowed to stumble, but not fall. Some experiences are best learned from failure and serve as a test of character. Experience is the best teacher; troops learn what to do and what not to do. Even if they fail, they should have learned something that makes them a little smarter and more prepared for the next time. No leader or supervisor has gotten where they are by being perfect.

Education, discipline and opportunities are all important, but to make sure Airmen understand the path, they need a map. They need role models. Often the role model is the immediate supervisor or trainer, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. Anyone who has more rank or time in the service automatically becomes a role model, and that's not always the best thing.

Supervisors and leaders need to set a positive example because the higher we move up the chain of command the more we are looked at.

In a nutshell, there are good role models and bad ones; both can be positive learning experiences for the new Airman. They learn what not to do from the bad role models, and from the good ones they learn to do what's right.

So, what does taking care of your troops mean to you?

Commander's Connection

Q: Can 31st Services Squadron Home Fuels provide advance notice on price changes similar to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service notices on gas price changes? The price cost of gasolio increased from \$320 for 1,000 liters in September 2004 to \$700 in October 2005. Why hasn't the amount of our utility allowance been adjusted to help us pay for these increases?

A: Thank you for your concern. The current price people pay for gasolio is far less than the economy price. Prices are forwarded to us along with all other base fuel prices and usually there is no advance notice. On the occasions we do receive advance notice, the changes are briefed at wing staff meetings. This may not be the ideal situation, however I'm sure you can agree that the services squadron is unable to advertise price increases in advance if they are not given advance notification. Utility allow-

ances are adjusted annually to cover monthly utility expenses for 80 percent of Aviano members. Aviano's utility allowance, which was last updated in March 2005, is currently the third highest utility rate paid in U.S. Air Forces in Europe. To ensure future rates for Aviano accurately capture increasing costs, I urge Airmen to retain copies of their utility expenses for the upcoming utility survey. This is the best way to ensure our voices are heard. Members living in government quarters and built-to-lease housing have their utilities paid for by the government so they are not affected by changes in gasolio prices or the utilities allowance. Should they move into the economy, I encourage them to have an active voice in these surveys.

To submit a question to the Commander's Connection, e-mail cc.connect@aviano.af.mil. It is recommended that members contact the appropriate agency or go through their chain of command before using the Commander's Connection.

Buzzards receive new roost

510th FS/AMU moves to modern facility

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 510th Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit has the capability to soar to new heights with its new modern facility.

The squadron began moving into its new building in Area F Jan. 13. The building was part of the Aviano 2000 construction program.

"We outgrew the old facility. The operations and the maintenance portion of our squadron were also housed in two different locations," said Lt. Col. Jon Walker, 510th Fighter Squadron commander. "The maintainers and our administrative offices were housed in portable trailers in a hardened aircraft shelter. Now we're all under the same roof."

More than 250 people worked in

the trailers inside the HAS where the heat and air conditioning were poor, there were no windows and restrooms were outside in "Cadillacs," which are trailers with restrooms in them. All the offices were small and there was no break area.

"It was too hot or too cold, too small and it was like working at a deployed location," said Senior Master Sgt. Luther Meitzner, 510th AMU NCO in charge. "The new facility helps us support the 510th FS better. Communication between us and the operators is vital and now we're closer to them. The collocation has improved working relations."

The building also allows some maintenance members to be more organized.

"We have a lot more room and it's easier to find supplies and control parts," said Staff Sgt. Robert Smith, 510th AMU maintenance supply unit NCOIC.

The squadron is very grateful for their facility and they are still in the moving stage. "There's still work to be done on the facility, but we're happy to be here. It's like moving into a new house," Colonel Walker said.



Photos by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Some of the 510th Aircraft Maintenance Unit used to work inside stacked "trailers" located in a hardened aircraft shelter.



The 510th Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit members are still in the process of relocating to their new and improved facility. The facility is more spacious and combines the maintenance, operations and administrative aspects of the squadron.

Tea: The Order of the Eastern Star hosts an invitational tea from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the community center. For more information, call Ext. 7844.



Courtesy photo

Exceptional performer

Tech. Sgt. Claudia Carcamo, 724th Air Mobility Squadron, is STEP promoted Jan. 10 in the passenger terminal. Lt. Col. Christine Erlewine, 724th AMS commander, gave Sergeant Carcamo the stripes on behalf of Brig. Gen. Bobby Wilkes, 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force commander, who promoted her through video teleconference.

Tax season tips

Tax season has arrived, and military personnel should know several things to make their returns easier and more beneficial.

- Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo all qualify as tax exempt combat zones.

- For enlisted servicemembers, all income earned in a combat zone is exempt, but for officers, income is excluded up to a certain limit.

- Two credits that military members can qualify for are earned income credit and child tax credit. Beginning this year, servicemembers can include their combat zone income to qualify for these credits.

- Servicemembers in a

combat zone during tax season get an automatic six month extension to file their taxes after they leave the combat zone. Servicemembers who are deployed elsewhere have a two-month extension to file.

- Military personnel can get help online with their taxes. The IRS provides a free file service on its Web site, which lists several free tax preparation services for military members. The Web site Military OneSource also provides free tax assistance to military members.

- Servicemembers should make sure they have their W-2 forms and Social Security cards for themselves and their dependents.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Connecting

As part of a Project Connect initiative, Maj. Gen. David Zabecki, Commanding General U.S. Southern European Task Force, speaks to Aviano company grade officers here Tuesday.

LEAD Program seeks Airmen

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – The Air Force is looking for outstanding enlisted Airmen with leadership potential to fill appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

There are 135 slots available each year through the Leaders Encouraging Airmen Development Program. The deadline for completing the initial application is Feb. 15 for entry into the fall 2006 class. The LEAD Program is an ongoing Air Force effort to provide its brightest Airmen the opportunity to excel by offering them appointments to the academy in Colorado Springs, Co.

The LEAD program delegates authority to unit and wing commanders to nominate highly qualified Airmen to attend the Prep School with the intention of an academy appointment to follow. Fifty slots are reserved at the Prep School for Airmen who meet entry criteria. Airmen must be a U.S. citizen or be able to obtain citizenship before entry into the academy the following year, be unmarried and have no dependents, must not have passed their 22nd birthday by July 1 of the entry year, be of high

moral character and have less than six years of service. There are also 85 slots available for active duty Airmen for direct entry into the academy. Those Airmen must be no older than 23 on July 1 of the year entering the Academy.

The initial application, AF Form 1786, requires the Airman's personal information, immediate commander's endorsement (no lower than squadron commander or equivalent), and Military Personnel Flight assignments coordination.

The completed form must reach the Air Force Academy Admissions Office NLT Feb. 15 of the entry year. Once an application has been processed, Airmen will be notified by the admissions office concerning additional requirements such as the physical aptitude exam, an extensive medical evaluation, completion of an interview with an Admissions Liaison Officer, completion of the writing sample, and attainment of qualifying scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test.

For more information, call the Education Services Center at Ext. 5330.

USAFE Idol: Do you have what it takes? Sign up for the base-level portion of USAFE Idol Feb. 25. For details, call Ext. 5080.

OHA, from page 1

To complete the survey, people will need to report their average monthly cost of utilities and routine maintenance for housing. Respondents should have actual bills or records of their utility expenses and maintenance expenses with them for the last 12 months.

"Survey responders will be expected to compute a monthly average for each of these expenses. To make the survey process easier, members may take the survey at home with their spouses," said Lieutenant Biddle. "Members will also be asked for the last four digits of their Social Security Number. Responses will be held in the strictest confidence."

The annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility Survey is scheduled to run through March and is available on the Internet at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/ohasurvey>. Private contractors are not allowed to participate in the survey.

Overseas housing allowance survey tips

The following items are included in the utility allowance and should be reported on the survey:

- Electricity
- Heating fuels (natural gas, liquid petroleum gas, bombola, fuel oil, coal and firewood)
- Water for residence
- Bottled water for drinking
- Trash pickup
- Sewer charges
- Maintenance and minor repairs
- Insurance required by custom or law
- Condo fees
- Police protection
- Guards
- Taxes for which the tenant is responsible and must make a separately identifiable payment

Examples of items not included in the utility allowance and should not

be reported on the survey:

- Cable TV
- Tuition
- Monthly telephone bills
- Auto gasoline/diesel fuel
- Auto expenses
- Books
- Pet expenses
- Postage
- Road taxes
- Gifts
- Repairs to personally-owned electrical equipment
- Maid service
- Yard maintenance

Currency:

Report all expenses in the currency used to pay them. If electricity was paid in local currency, report local currency; if electricity was paid in U.S. dollars, report in U.S. dollars.

SFS transformation: more than meets the eye

**By Senior Airman
J.G. Buzanowski**
Air Force Print News

As the Air Force continues to adapt for the future, changes to the security forces career field will affect the total force.

Brig. Gen. Robert Holmes, director of security forces and force protection, calls these transformations a "refocus" on how his people train and fight.

"We're not in the Cold War anymore; we have to alter our mentality and our practices for today's reality," the general said. "Because of the nature of the threat, our Airmen are fighting the global war on terror on the front lines, and we owe it to them to provide training, equipment and resources to be effective."

Essentially security forces Airmen will focus on preparing for their warfighting mission at forward locations, as well as security at a fixed installation, General Holmes said.

As an example, he cited an Air Force Task Force that operated around Balad Air Base, Iraq, for two months last year. The unit patrolled the local towns and found weapons caches as well as individuals who posed a threat to the base.

"Our Airmen are going 'outside the wire' to conduct missions and are proving successful in keeping people safe," General Holmes said. "Not only for the

folks stationed at the base, but people who live and work in the local area as well. This is very important in the present war on terror."

Security forces Airmen must learn counter-insurgency techniques and in doing so, they'll operate more effectively in joint operations, said Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"We need to be prepared for a full-spectrum of threats against an air field," General Seip said. "That means taking more responsibility for defense of our mission, so our sister services can concentrate on their own tasks. We need to understand how they operate, so we're working closely with the Army to identify additional ways to train our Airmen."

While security forces will focus more on their warfighting competencies, Air Force leaders are reviewing several options for installation protection duties, like entry control, at home stations. Plans call for more DoD civilians, greater affiliation with Guard and Reserve and better use of technologies, General Holmes said.

The changes to the security forces career field will present the opportunity for other Airman to participate in installation security. While that doesn't necessarily mean everyone will have a rotation checking identification cards at a gate, it does mean more comprehen-

sive training, awareness and capability to respond and participate, he said.

"Will every Airman be a cop? No. But every Airman will be a warrior," General Holmes said. "Every Airman needs to be trained in basic force protection skills and must be prepared to defend an air base and themselves in the event of an attack. This means more than just qualifying with a weapon. We want Airmen to be comfortable with their duty weapon and to develop their shooting skills."

While definitive plans have not been finalized, General Holmes also said one of the transformation goals is bringing security forces Airmen back in step with standard Air Force 120-day deployments.

"Right now our folks are going out for 179-day rotations," he said. "Our Airmen need time to reconstitute and train, so it's important to get them in line with the rest of the Air Force. We aim to do just that."

Overall, General Holmes said the changes would make security forces Airmen more effective and relevant to Air Force needs in the face of the current changing nature of warfare.

"We want to make our Airmen more proficient, and to do that, we need to adapt," General Holmes said. "We're going to change our training, our tactics and our procedures and the Air Force will be better for it."

W-2 availability: Aviano Airmen can get a copy of their W-2 online at the MyPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

Project wizard brings 'Becoming American' home

*Courtesy of USAFE
Services Squadron*

To celebrate our diversity, the National Endowment for the Humanities is sponsoring the program, 'We the People - Becoming American.'

U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries are highlighting this annual program that encourages young people to learn about American history and culture by reading about our immigrant past and present.

NEH and the American Library Association have selected books that offer an introduction to what 'Becoming American' means.

As part of the We the People program, the NEH is sponsoring an essay contest for high school juniors. The grand prize winner receives \$5,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. Three runners-up will win \$1,000 each. The deadline is in April, and details are on the We the People website at <http://www.wethepeople.gov/>.

The USAFE library headquarters office has purchased copies of all titles on the list, and they're available at the Aviano base library. Visit www.usafelibraries.org/5-7.php for more information on the program. For information on other Aviano library programs, call Ext. 5893.

*The following titles make up the
We the People Bookshelf:*

Grades K-3: "The Lotus Seed" by Sherry Garland, "Watch the Stars Come Out" by Riki Levinson, and "Grandfather's Journey" by Allen Say.

Grades 4-6: "Immigrant Kids" by Russell Freedman, "The People Could Fly: African Black Folktales" by Virginia Hamilton, "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving, and "In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson" by Bette Bao Lord.

Grades 7-8: "Rifles for Watie" by Harold Keith, "The Glory Field" by Walter Dean Myers, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, and "Dragonwings" by Laurence Yep.

Grades 9-12: "Death Comes for the Archbishop" by Willa Cather, "Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin" edited by Louis P. Masur, "Barrio Boy" by Ernesto Galarza, and "Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie" by Ole Edvart Rølvaag.

Flybys: Community Information at a Glance

Champagne brunch

A champagne Sunday brunch with entertainment is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the La Bella Vista Club. For more information, call Ext. 4303.

Promotions

The wing promotion ceremony is at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the La Bella Vista Club.

Food pantry

A food pantry drive for servicemembers and their families in need is from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Area One chapel. Donations should be non-perishable items, personal hygiene products and baby items. For more information, call 335-848-4107 or 338-607-3099.

Marital classes

Learn more about yourself, your partner and your relationship by understanding personality types and how they interact both positively and negatively with Family Advocacy's marital enrichment class. The two-

session class is from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in Bldg. 108, Area One. On-site childcare is available. For more information, call Ext. 5667.

Job Shadow Day

Aviano Middle and High School students will participate in a Job Shadow Day Thursday. All students participating will be excused and parents/sponsors can arrange to take their kids to work. People interested in hosting a student in their workplace can e-mail their name, rank, type of work, location, phone number and e-mail address to Cheryl Owen at the high school at cheryl.owen@eu.dodea.edu or Debbie Lee at the middle school at debbie.lee@eu.dodea.edu. For more information, call Ext. 5877.

Building renovation

The 31st Security Forces Squadron's Pass and Registration will be renovated starting Feb. 6. The renovation will last about six weeks and customers might experience service delays. During this time, Soggiorno op-

erations will be conducted on Thursdays in Bldg. 1133. For more information, call Ext. 4858.

Women's history

The Women's History Month committee is looking for members and is hosting its first meeting at 3 p.m. Monday in the Military Equal Opportunity conference room in Bldg. 220, Area Two.

Girl Scouts

The Aviano Girl Scouts are selling cookies through Feb. 4 at the base exchange and shopette after 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The cost is \$3.50 per box and proceeds benefit the Aviano community.

The Girl Scouts are also electing their Overseas Committee Chairs and they need volunteers to sit on a board and accept nominations. People interested should e-mail Valery Hodgson at avianogs@yahoo.com by Monday.

Chief recognition

A Chief Recognition Ceremony is at 6 p.m. Feb. 4 in the La Bella Vista Club. The ceremony honors Chief Master Sgt. Selects William Elliott, 704th Munitions Squadron; James Kruse, 724th Air Mobility Squadron; Luther Meitzner, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Lloyd Muranaka, 31st AMXS; Timothy Pratt, 724th AMS; La Shawn Scott, 31st Dental Squadron; Gerald Thompson, 712th Munitions Squadron; and David Torelli, 31st Maintenance Squadron.

Super Bowl

The La Bella Vista Club is hosting a free Super Bowl party at 9 p.m. Feb. 5. More than \$1,000 in cash and prizes will be given away to club members and free food is provided. For more information, call Ext. 4303.

Online audio books

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries have online audio books for all ages. The books can be accessed from

any computer with internet access and the collection includes fiction, non-fiction, current titles and classics for adults, teens and children. The audio books may not work from a military computer. To access the book, visit www.USAFELibraries.org.

Valentine's dinner

The La Bella Vista Club is hosting a gourmet Valentine's dinner at 6 p.m. Feb. 11. Reservations are required. For more information, call Ext. 4303.

Be mine

People who want to tell their sweethearts how they feel can submit a free Valentine note to vigileer@aviano.af.mil no later than Feb. 3. The ads shouldn't exceed more than 35 words and will be published in the Feb. 10 edition.

Office moves

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator staff is located in Bldg. 220 in Area Two. To reach the SARC office, call Ext. 7272.

Public Health has moved from the main clinic to the second floor of Bldg. 103 in Area One. For more information, call Ext. 5219.

Prayer breakfast

A National Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for 8 a.m. Feb. 8 at the La Bella Vista Club. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains. Tickets cost \$4 for club members and \$5 for non-club members and can be purchased through first sergeants.

History month

African American Heritage Month kicks off at 3 p.m. Feb. 3 at the La Bella Vista Club. This year's theme is "A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Organizations." Events include jazz, poetry, spades, and dominoes tournaments. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Roy Thomas at Ext. 5521 or Staff Sgt. William Holland at Ext. 5300.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "Yours, Mine and Ours" Rated PG

- A widow and a widower fall in love and get married, but the resulting combined 18 children make for a hair-raising situation under one roof. Starring: Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" Rated PG - Four children are separated from their parents in London during the German air raids of WWII. They are sent to a country far away for safety and they find a magic wardrobe that transports them to the mystical world of Narnia. Once peaceful, Narnia is now frozen by the white witch, and the kids must help break her spell. Starring: Tilda Swinton, Georgie Henley

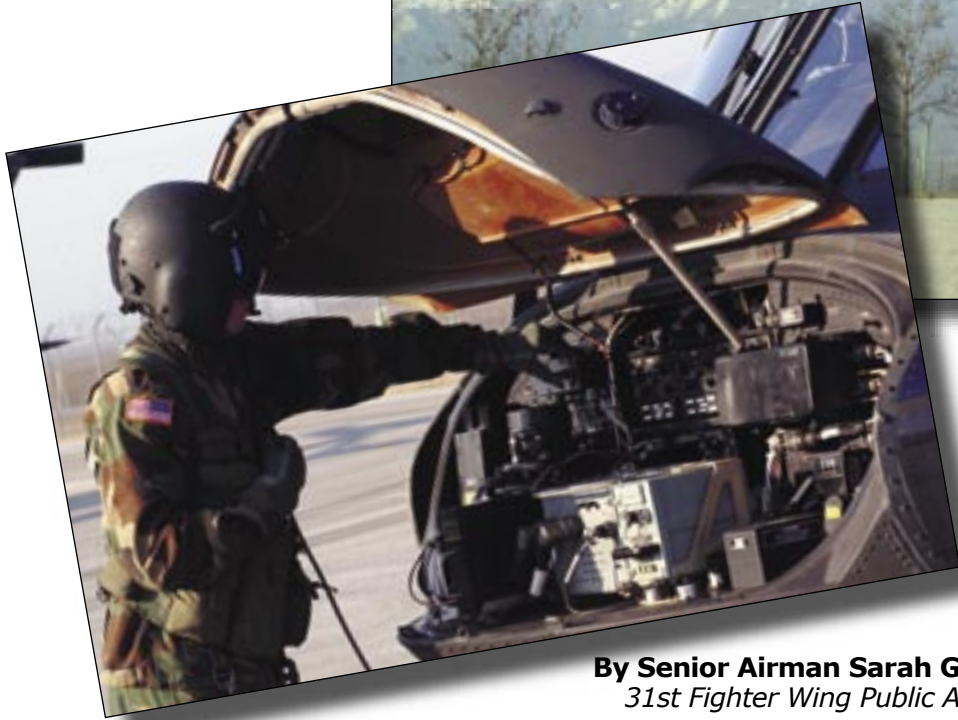
Saturday, 5 p.m. - "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" Rated PG

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" Rated R - An orphaned street kid makes his mark in the drug trade, but decides to leave his former life to pursue a career as a rapper. Starring: 50 Cent, Joy Bryant

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" Rated PG

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" Rated R

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)



Meet Garg

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Above left and center: Army Spc. Jeffery Lockwood, 158th Aviation Regiment B Company, goes through the steps of a maintenance pre-flight checklist on a UH-60 Black Hawk Tuesday. For every hour a Black Hawk flies, the aircraft mechanics spend about four hours performing routine maintenance.

They're not phantoms, but they are hardly seen around Aviano. With only 70 people, the 158th Aviation Regiment B Company may be a small unit, but together they carry the weight of a heavy mission.

"We provide full spectrum aviation support to our parent organization – the 1st Armored Division in Germany – and to the 173rd Southern European Task Force in Vicenza," said Army 1st Sgt. Rodney Harris. "Essentially, we move people and supplies around Europe and wherever we're tasked."

Some may think an Army unit stationed at an Air Force base is odd but there is a logical reason for the arrangement.

"The main reason we are here [at Aviano] is for the fuel and other resources available," said Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Horne, instructor pilot. "They keep us here so units in Germany don't have to worry about weather when going through the Alps for missions down here."

Known within the Army as the Gargoyles, B Company supports missions and organizations from different services and even allied countries.

"One of the pluses of being here is the practice we get from training with other

squadrons. Most of our training we generate ourselves so we stay proficient. We love it when the Air Force [squadrons] take advantage of our presence," said CWO2 Horne.

Joint training projects have included Survival, Evasion and Resistance training with the 603rd Air Control Squadron and static line jumps with the Italian Army paratroopers.

"We'd love if it the base utilized us more for their training needs because we're here for them," added CWO2 Horne. "We are here to support the 173rd and basically to support anybody who wants to use us."

Consisting of 15 different military occupational specialties, with everything from administrative staff to instructor pilots, B Company is a self-sufficient unit.

"We're kind of unique because if we're co-located with our battalion, then all the MOSs would be in the other companies," said 1st Sgt. Harris. "In this company we have helicopter pilots and mechanics. I have fuel handlers, truck mechanics, crew chiefs and administrative personnel."

Although B Company is made up of different career fields, its members have a common goal – to get the company's UH-60 Black Hawks in the air.

"Our primary mission is to fly those eight aircraft. In order to do so we need help from the mechanics, the pilots and

Photos by Airman Nathan Doza



the oyles



foundational support provided by administrative personnel,” said 1st Sgt. Harris.

In order to keep the Black Hawks flying, B Company mechanics must be able to work on a variety of mechanical equipment.

“We have the full gamut of aircraft maintainers here – engine, avionics, electricians and hydraulics,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Drew Barry, platoon sergeant. “We handle all the scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and we fly with the aircraft. The best way to describe it is to say we’re the gunners and the loadmasters for the aircraft.”

To give it some perspective, for every hour the pilots fly, aircraft mechanics must put in about four hours of regular maintenance.

The 18-week technical school aircraft mechanics go through gives them the fundamentals needed to work on the helicopters.

“We are taught how to work on anything with a turbine and we learn the engines from the inside out,” said Army Pfc. Joshua Grzandziel, aircraft engine mechanic. “The technical school we go through qualifies us to work on Hueys, Black Hawks and Chinooks.”

Mechanics aren’t the only B Company members required to have a wide knowledge base. To keep the regular line helicopter pilots trained on the newest flying techniques, two instructor pilots are permanently stationed with the company.

“Every year we test the pilots on day

and night flying using night vision goggles, landings in confined areas, on slopes and unimproved surfaces,” said CWO2 Horne. “We also simulate engine failures and boost-offs – turning off the hydraulics, to see how they will react.”

Line pilots have to fly a certain amount of hours every year while under review by their instructors. To maintain certification, helicopter pilots also have to take a written test every year and attend weekly classroom training.

“Part of our job is to verify they are doing everything correctly. We spend hours with them asking them questions and making sure all their yearly requirements are met,” said Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ron Wagner, instructor pilot. “It’s our job to make sure they are meeting the standards. Once we see that, then we add to their knowledge base.”

Whether pilots, mechanics or support personnel, some Army members stationed at Aviano have experienced something of an Air Force culture shock.

“The facilities are very nice, but there are definitely some challenges just because things between the services are different,” said 1st Sgt. Harris. “A lot of times it’s difficult to communicate because the terminology is different between the Army and the Air Force, but you learn as you go to overcome the differences.”

Above: Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Steven-ton, 158th Aviation Regiment B Company, prepares a UH-60 Black Hawk for its maintenance flight check-up Tuesday. Maintenance checks are short flights in the local area performed periodically to keep the helicopters mission-ready.

Fly Bys

Local area events

Through March 19 - Artistic photos and knives are on display at 8 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays in the Coricama Center, downtown Maniago.

Through April 30 - A Chinese Art exhibit is from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily in Treviso. For more information, visit www.laviadellasetta.info.

Local market

Orderzo hosts a weekly town market that dates to Roman times on Wednesdays.

Museum

The National Museum Concordiese of Portogruaro is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The archaeological museum is home to artifacts unearthed in excavations of Concordia Sagittaria.

Spilimbergo

Approximately 40 minutes north of Aviano, Spilimbergo is home to a castle rebuilt after a 1511 fire. The Mosaic School of Friuli, frescoed churches and a frescoed crypt with a 15th century wooden altar and the tomb of Walpertoldo.

Online travel

Visit www.aftavelonline.com for information on airplane and train tickets and hotel reservations.

Take a day trip to historic Padova

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With tons of culture and shopping, the pilgrimage city of Padova is a European crossroads only an hour and a half from Aviano.

This large ancient city is one of the oldest in the country and there is so much to keep the tourist busy that it is difficult to do it all in one day. Padova's tourism sites are spread out and a lot of walking is involved. It's best to get to the city early in the day to avoid evening crowds.

Driving can be very stressful and confusing. Toward the center of town is Piazza Rabin, a pay parking area, but it is easier to take the train. The train station is about 10 minutes from the cultural center and buses can take you around the city.

Many Padova tourists are interested in the Giotto frescoes and the Basilica di Sant' Antonio. For those interested in seeing the frescoes in the Cappella degli Scrovegni, it is recommended to book in advance. Access to the frescoes is limited and only 25 people are allowed at a time. To make a reservation, visit <http://www.cappel-ladegliscrovegni.it/>.

During the last jubilee in 2000, which is a religious celebration usually celebrated every 50 years, the Basilica di Sant' Antonio was one of many locations people pilgrimaged to. This large basilica not only houses the remains of St. Anthony, but also has a museum and several tranquil courtyards. Every inch of the basilica interior is decorated in blasts of color from beautiful religious murals to the various different colored marble entryways.

For a less visually-stimulating church, visit the Santa Giustina down the road from the Sant' Antonio. The interior of the Giustina is very simple and it feels like you are in a large hall. There are a few religious paintings on display including the Martyrdom of St. Justina by Veronese. In one room, St. Luke's cage is on display.

Near the Sant' Antonio basilica there are



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

The Basilica di Sant' Antonio in Padova is a popular location for pilgrimages.

street vendors selling religious art and other souvenirs.

Across the street from the vendors, brown tourist signs point to other historical sites. One sign directs tourists to the home of Galileo Galilei. Follow the signs and it will take you to an old apartment on a small street named after the scientist.

After visiting Padova's sites, you can absorb the culture by visiting one of the many cafes and shops or by resting in one of the many plazas. Caffè Pedrocchi is a 19th century coffeehouse located in the Piazza Cavour and is a landmark of the city. The town has plenty of stores selling name brand clothing, jewelry and electronics and holds markets in several town squares.

The city springs to life in the evening when locals venture to the various shops and entertainers perform in the streets.

This beautiful ancient city has much to offer with many more historical sites that have people coming back for more.

Going places? Traveling somewhere neat? Tell us about it! Submit travel stories or photos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil.



Courtesy photo

The leaning tower of Pisa began to lean before it was completed in 1350.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Pisa and Vinci
- Saturday - San Marino
- Feb. 4 - Guided Salzburg and Sound of Music
- Feb. 4 - Bolzano and Ice Man Museum

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as

scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for the trip. The office also recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.



Photo by Capt. Michael Fea

Torch runner

An Italian Olympic Torch runner passes the flame to Tech. Sgt. Rick Chang, 31st Aerospace Medical Squadron, Jan. 22. On his birthday, Sergeant Chang received the honor of carrying the Olympic Torch, which was on its way to the Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

Basketball standings

Team	Won	Lost
31 MXS	13	0
31 SFS	13	1
31 CS	10	2
31 MXS (AMMO)	10	4
31 AMDS (MDG B)	10	4
31 LRS	7	4
MOS	8	5
CPTS/SVS	6	9
724 AMS	6	9
31 MDG (A TEAM)	5	10
BRAVO CO	4	10
603RD B TEAM	3	10

Over 30 Basketball standings

Team	Won	Lost
31 CS	5	2
31 MXS	5	2
31 LRS	4	2
31 SFS	4	3
31 MSS	4	3
31 MDG	3	4
31 CES	1	6
Varsity Female	1	6

Fly Bys

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8 a.m. Feb. 5. The group leaves the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Vallenoncello. For more information, call Ext. 7692.

Pool tournament

The 2006 U.S. Air Force in Europe Pool Shark's Tournament begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 3 and runs through Feb. 11. Single or two-person teams must sign-up before the tournament and be 18 years old. Winners will advance to RAF Lakenheath, England, for the finals.

Fitness center hours

The Area Two fitness center hours are from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and is closed on weekends. For more information, call Ext. 5269.

Ski/Snowboard

Outdoor recreation offers ski and snowboard lessons beginning Feb. 17 at Piancavallo. The two-hour lessons are held on five Saturdays. The cost is \$130. Sign-ups will be taken until Jan. 31 or when classes are full. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Volleyball

The Dragon Fitness Center is accepting applications for male and female volleyball players to participate in the 2006 CC-Air Headquarters Ramstein Volleyball Championships March 21-24. People interested must fill out an AF Form 303 and submit to Robby England by Feb. 20. For more information, call Ext. 7574.

Officials wanted

The Aviano Referees Association is looking for flag football officials. For more information, call 348-252-4885.

Wingman: The bowling center offers Wingman Wednesday Bowling from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Safety tips for hitting the slopes

Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office

Skiing and snowboarding are popular winter activities in Europe. Consequently, ski slopes can be crowded with winter sports enthusiasts, many of whom are inexperienced and may pose a safety risk to others.

Whether a professional or an amateur, under Italian law, skiers can be criminally charged for negligent injuries even if they accidentally injure someone while skiing or snowboarding. All it takes is the injured party filing a formal complaint with the judicial authorities and Airmen will need a civilian lawyer to represent them in court. If the injuries are serious, a formal complaint isn't needed for the judicial authorities to initiate a criminal proceeding.

In 2003, following some fatal accidents, several laws were passed to enforce safety on the slopes. The following are some of the requirements:

- A safety helmet, in accordance with Italian standards, is mandatory for skiers and snowboarders under age 14. Offenders can be fined up to €150.
- Speed must be adjusted to suit the weather conditions (fog, snow, etc.) and the number of skiers so other people aren't endangered.
- Before passing a skier, ensure there is sufficient visibility and space.

- If you cross a skier, the skier coming from the right has the right of way.

- If you need to stop, move to the side of the slope.

- It is forbidden to walk on a ski slope unless there is an emergency.

- If a skier is injured, use the Good Samaritan rule; give assistance if possible and immediately alert the proper authorities.

- Do not ski off the track. You can cause an avalanche and you may be held criminally and/or financially responsible.

- If you practice ski touring, you are required to carry an electronic device to allow a rescue squad to locate you in case of an avalanche or accident.

Both American and Italian insurance companies offer policies that can protect people in case they are legally obligated to pay for injuries or material damages caused by their actions. These policies may save people from a potentially financially devastating lawsuit. To learn more about policy options, contact your insurance company.

Many ski resorts have designated areas for snowboarding and acrobatic skiing (snow parks) where safety helmets are required for all ages. Before using an area, check the rules. Local or state police, forest rangers, Carabinieri and customs officers attached to ski resorts can impose fines to offenders.

For more information, call the legal office at Ext. 7843.

The future of security forces in combat

Col Brad Spacy

U.S. Air Force Headquarters Security Forces and Force Protection

WASHINGTON – In the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2005, the first combat patrols of Operation Desert Safeside left the northern perimeter of Balad Air Base, Iraq, and began an aggressive 60-day combat operation to kill or capture insurgents attacking the air base. This was a historic mission for Air Force security forces. It was bold, put Airmen at risk and the stakes were high. We knew the results of Operations Desert Safeside would have far-reaching implications on the future of Air Force security forces as a credible ground combat force.

Operation Desert Safeside was carried out by the men and women of Task Force 1041. Specially built around a squadron of the 820th Security Forces Group, TF 1041 was led by a young security forces lieutenant colonel named Chris Bargery, chosen for his reputation as an innovative combat leader. TF 1041's designated area of operations was one of the most violent areas in the region, roughly 10 kilometers wide and 6 deep, from the Balad perimeter fence to the Tigris River.

Throughout January and February 2005, Colonel Bargery led the men and women of TF 1041 in more than 500 combat missions that included raids, ambushes, and sniper operations aimed at taking back the initiative enjoyed by the enemy for more than two years.

TF 1041 did not disappoint. In just 60 days they captured 17 high value targets, eight major weapons caches, 98 other insurgents and reduced enemy attacks from their area of operations to nearly zero. And although TF 1041 endured numerous firefights, improvised explosive devices and indirect fire attacks, they sustained no injuries. Operation Desert Safeside was by all accounts an overwhelming success.

However, TF 1041's success on the battlefield had a larger effect than its immediate impact on the areas around Balad AB. TF 1041 also showed the world that Air Force security forces are an exceptionally capable ground combat force. This is a key point as security forces transform from a Cold War industrial security force to a relevant ground combat force for the joint warfight in the 21st Century.

Although security forces have claimed the base defense mission since the 1960s, it has always been considered an Army responsibility. In 1985, this was formalized when the Army became officially responsible for defense "outside the wire" of a fixed base. It was an unwritten understanding that Air Force security forces would stay inside the base perimeter. This looked fine on paper, but faced numerous challenges in application, which endured through the Cold War and into the 1990s.

During Operation Desert Storm, the lines of battle were fairly well-defined with major combat at the "front" and air bases supposedly tucked safely in the rear area. The first widely publicized indications that the enemy was changing tactics was seen during the attack on Khobar Towers, but the full impact of these changes weren't fully exposed until operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq our bases are not always in the rear and the enemy has attacked us from all sides with relative impunity, just like at Balad AB. The world in which we conduct Air Force operations is changing, and we need to adapt.

Early last year, when previous Air Force/Army agreements were dissolved, the Air Force was left with a tough problem; while security forces are eager to fight outside the wire, most are untested in the combat environment experienced by TF 1041. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that security forces are spread thin conducting security missions and other tasks throughout the theater. This is where Security Forces Transformation comes in.

Security Forces Transformation will help the Air Force deliberately embrace the air base defense mission by addressing requirements in all areas, from doctrine to training and equipping, and even leadership preparation. Security Forces Transformation will also re-tool the organizational structure to ensure we have the number of troops available to take the fight to the enemy outside the wire. However, air base defense is a tough mission, and security forces can't do it alone. Effective air base defense requires an integrated approach.

The Air Force needs to truly embrace the "every Airman is a warrior" culture and enlist the whole force in defending an air base much like Sailors do an aircraft carrier in the Navy. All Airmen must be trained and equipped to man "battle stations," and leaders must be prepared to lead them in the ground fight. Security forces might be the ones outside the wire, but the whole Air Force team will have to ensure the base remains protected from penetrative attacks and insider threats, and be ready to respond when called upon. This is the reality of the world today.

I knew when I designed Operation Desert Safeside that the only way to stop the enemy from attacking our air bases was to go out and kill or capture him and take his weapons. I knew that security forces had the skills and courage to take on this mission and make it a success. The brave men and women of Task Force 1041 proved this to be true in dramatic fashion. Operation Desert Safeside provides a look at the future of Air Force ground combat, and Security Forces Transformation is the key to ensuring we're all ready to protect and defend.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.